



Silver Spring, Maryland



Santa Cruz, California

Facilities

Total Request: \$18,001,000

ORF: \$18,001,000

NOAA's strategic mission and activities require state-of-the-art facilities and high technology capabilities located nationwide. NOAA has a facility inventory of assets valued in the tens of millions of dollars, with physical properties in every state and territory, and inclusive of specialized laboratories, large and small concentrations of office and storage space, and remote observations. NOAA headquarters and its field installations are major national assets, and they are fundamental to the accomplishment of NOAA's mission. NOAA must provide safe, healthful facilities that comply with state and local regulations; that are in good repair and run efficiently; and that are in locations that support and enhance agency missions. The integral relationship between the physical infrastructure of the facilities we occupy and the research and operations conducted in those facilities contributes directly to the attainment of the seven goals of NOAA's strategic plan, and NOAA's mission to support the Nation's economic growth in an environmentally sound manner.

NOAA's facility program responsibility is to plan, acquire, maintain, and support NOAA's facility to continue to successfully fulfill NOAA's missions. The facilities program encompasses land and facility acquisition and construction; repairs, modifications, and additions to NOAA-operated facilities; environmental compliance; facilities maintenance; and ensuring a high standard of employee health and safety.

Significant Adjustments to Base

Facilities' base had a net increase of \$6.8 million, of which \$6.0 million is a transfer of cleanup funds for Pribilof Island from the PAC account to the ORF account. The balance of the net increase (\$808,000) is due to restoration of the rescission (\$38,000) and receipt of adjustments to base for the NOAA Maintenance, Repairs, and Safety program (\$770,000). This increase will fund the FY 2002 cost-of-living pay increase for the Facilities Office and provide inflationary increases for certain non-labor activities including service contracts.

Detailed Program Increases by Sub-Activity

Operations, Research and Facilities (ORF)

NOAA Facilities Maintenance, Repair and Safety **\$3.6 million**

The total request of \$3.6 million for Facilities Maintenance, Repairs and Safety activities represents an increase of \$1.8 million above the FY 2001 Enacted level. This continued investment will allow Facilities to pursue the elimination of numerous health and safety issues related to the poor condition of NOAA's facilities. These funds will address NOAA's current backlog of projects in the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) and will begin the establishment of a focused NOAA safety program. The CIP provides for major repairs, renovations and alterations to NOAA facilities. The CIP's purpose is to identify and correct deficiencies in those facilities, to include needed major and minor repairs, renovations and alterations, and provide limited construction of "like" replacement space. Scientists' abilities to perform advanced research has been constrained in some cases by obsolete and inadequate laboratory facilities.

NOAA employees may be subject to health and safety threats, including sinus problems and allergic reactions from inadequate ventilation standards, employees accidents related to poorly maintained stair coverings and floors, and potential structural failure and collapse. The social consequence of poor facilities may be seen in reduced worker productivity, poor morale and an inability to attract and retain personnel.

The NOAA Maintenance, Repair, and Safety program vision is to provide to NOAA units a national network of facilities that are safe and healthful, in compliance with all existing Federal, state and local laws and regulations, efficient, in proper repair, in appropriate locations and configurations, and designed to fully support and enhance the completion of agency missions.

Boulder Facilities Operations **\$5.0 million**

The total request of \$5.0 million for Boulder Facilities Operations represents an increase of \$1.0 million above the FY 2001 Enacted level. This continued investment will allow Facilities to fully fund the operating costs for space, above-standard utilities, maintenance and security at the new David Skaggs Research Center. By providing sufficient funds to meet the requirements negotiated with GSA, this initiative will avoid an overall base reduction to NOAA's Boulder organizations of approximately 2.3 percent.

Pribilof Island Cleanup **\$4.0 million**

The total request of \$4.0 million in ORF for the Pribilof Island Cleanup represents a decrease of \$2.0 million below the FY 2001 Enacted amount previously in the PAC account. This continued investment will enable NOAA to continue restoration work on the Pribilof Islands. The environmental cleanup includes treating petroleum-contaminated soils, continuing actions related to the closure of the existing landfill, and remediation at various sites and the NOAA portion of an oil-drum dump site. Under P.L. 104-91 and the "Two-Party Agreement between NOAA and the State of Alaska, NOAA is responsible for an extensive environmental cleanup on the islands in preparation for transfer of Federal lands on the islands to the local communities. The specified cleanup activities will be undertaken primarily through grants or other agreements with qualified contractors and/or local entities and residents of the Pribilof Islands.